

life. I've never met anybody who had a happier childhood and lived everyday to the fullest."

Greg was an Elks member, donated to the Merced Theater restoration project, contributed to the Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital Foundation in Whittier as well as to Mercy Medical Center Merced although his own medical partnership was in Southern California.

He learned to cook and loved it. Their babies' first solid food was fresh steamed broccoli and rutabagas he'd grown. With good food came good wine, and although he wasn't a snob, he liked to pick wines he liked. Years ago, he proposed to Paula at Hetch Hetchy after telling her to come look at some "variegated stones" in the water—and the ruby one was a bottle of Peter Michael wine. Two days before he died, he reproposed to her, using the same ploy and the same wine, while asking if she knew everything she knew now back when he first asked her to marry him, would she have done it? "Oh yes," she told him. "I had no doubts in how much I was loved."

Greg was all-Merced through and through, a career lifesaver and a hero to many. One of his partners says that although there were 13 doctors in the Whittier partnership, Greg was an "influential de facto leader. He had this ability to get in there and work with all the partners." One of them, Dennis Conneen, was on a 10-day religious retreat in England, broke off his trip after two days and flew back to California when he heard Greg had died. He was a cherished friend of Greg's and delivered a beautiful eulogy at Greg's memorial service in Whittier.

Greg is survived by his wife, Paula, his twin daughters Kate and Emily, his parents, Chuck and Annetta Meyer of Merced and sister; Kellee Meyer and her husband Doug Brown, also from Merced, his grandmother, Mary Wood, his aunt, Myrna Akins, of McHenry, IL and three cousins, Andrea Akins Berrett of Arrington, TN, Angela Smith of Rancho Santa Margarita, CA, and Aric Akins of Poplar Grove, IL and their respective spouses and children. Greg was predeceased by his grandfather, Iris (Spud) Wood, who was extremely inspirational to Greg in both his love of the outdoors and farm life.

Greg attended Merced High School, University of California at Irvine for both his undergraduate and medical degrees. He completed his internship and residency in Emergency Medicine at Harbor UCLA in Los Angeles, and a fellowship in Hyperbaric Medicine at Long Beach Memorial, Long Beach, CA.

Greg's family is profoundly grateful to Mark Alee, the California Conservation Corps professional who bravely risked his life trying to save Ric and Greg. Paula acknowledges she may not be alive today if it weren't for Mark's selfless act of heroism, quick physical strength and his strength of character. Steve Yu, the lead investigator, Rebecca Lund, the family liason, both with the National Park Service have treated our family with unusual kindness and respect throughout this tragedy. We also are grateful for the many men and women who searched tirelessly for Greg after the accident under extreme conditions.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Gregory Wayne Meyer, M.D. for his unwavering leadership, and recognizing his accomplishments and contributions to the Merced Community. The life of Dr. Meyer serves as

an example of excellence to those in our community, and his legacy will not be soon forgotten.

HONORING COLONEL GREGORY B. CANNEY

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and highlight the distinguished career of Colonel Gregory B. Canney. Colonel Canney's career spanned 26 years that began in Florida at Eglin Air Force Base and ended in Tampa at MacDill Air Force Base.

Colonel Gregory B. Canney is the Commander, 6th Dental Squadron, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. As the Commander, Colonel Canney was responsible for providing top quality dental restorative and preventive care to the 6th Mobility Wing and its 36 mission partners. Colonel Canney ensured the world-wide deployment of over 10,000 active duty members from the 6th Air Mobility Wing and two combatant commands. Colonel Canney interfaced with command, wing, group and squadron leaders on dental matters and managed a \$400,000 annual budget and 53,486 annual dental visits.

Colonel Canney was born in Groton, Connecticut. He completed his undergraduate education at Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA. He entered the Air Force directly from the University of Connecticut, School of Dental Medicine in 1980 and served 10 years. After a break in service, he resumed his Air Force career in 1995 and has enjoyed a total of 8 assignments. He is guided by the credo "attitude is everything."

Living by that credo is what led Colonel Canney to receive several major awards and decorations such as the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters. As the Deputy Group Commander for the 6th Medical Group, Colonel Canney has directly impacted the careers of hundreds of troops in all Healthcare Corps and will influence several generations beyond the tenure of his career.

The Tampa community and MacDill Air Force Base are proud to recognize Colonel Canney for his outstanding career and his many significant contributions to the Air Force and our country. His determination and hard work have made him an inspirational leader within our Nation's Armed Services. I ask that you and all Americans recognize such a remarkable patriot for his service to his country.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ERNEST L. THOMAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ernest L. Thomas for his career and commitment in academia and educating America's youth.

Dr. Thomas, who has been the President at Tarrant County College South Campus since 1998, graduated with a major in Sociology

from Washington State in 1971. He received his master's from the University of Massachusetts in 1976 and his doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin in the Community College Leadership Program in 1996.

From 1975 to 1990, Dr. Thomas was the Director of Educational Support Programs and Dean of Student Development at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. Before holding his current position, Dr. Thomas was the Vice-President of Student Development at Brookhaven College in the Dallas County Community College District for almost eight years.

Dr. Thomas has been involved with numerous professional committees and organizations including the American Association of Community Colleges and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

In addition to his professional involvement, Dr. Thomas is actively involved with several community and civic organizations such as the Fort Worth Independent School District and the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce where he served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for nearly five years. In addition, Dr. Thomas serves as a motivational speaker for numerous community events.

Dr. Thomas' outstanding service has been well documented and has earned him a long list of achievements and awards. These honors include the Kellogg Fellow Award from the Community College Leadership Program of the University of Texas at Austin, and the Silver Scholar award from the Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education. Please join me in recognizing and thanking this exceptional educator and community leader and his lifelong commitment to education.

BILL MATTOS RECOGNITION

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest respect that I rise today to recognize my friend, Bill Mattos, who is being recognized with the Golden Rooster Award from the California Poultry Federation for his outstanding service to California's Poultry Industry and whose dedication and inspiration is an example for all of us to follow.

Bill was born and raised on a farm in Stanislaus County. He is an honors graduate of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo where he was named Outstanding Graduate in Journalism. He also holds a Master's degree in Agricultural Journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He currently lives in Newman and is the proud father to two daughters, Toni and Natalie.

Bill was the Founder and former President of Mattos Newspapers, Inc., where he operated a local newspaper and printing company for 30 years. He currently hosts a cable television program, "Westside Stories," which features monthly interviews with elected officials, non-profit executives and leaders throughout Stanislaus and Merced County communities.

Bill has served our community through many different facets of government and community service. Bill was appointed by the Governor to the Stanislaus County Fair Board and